

For Immediate Release

Friday, July 26, 2002

DOYLE, NOZZOLIO PRAISE ASSET AMBASSADORS

Program Promotes Leadership and Community Service for Area Youth

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle and State Senator Michael F. Nozzolio today met with the 40 area young people serving as "Asset Ambassadors" with the Summer Youth Leadership Program. The five-week program gives local youth the opportunity to build leadership skills and gain employment experience working for Monroe County, the City of Rochester, and Monroe County towns and villages.

"These young men and women have earned our respect by demonstrating a commitment to themselves and their neighbors," said Doyle. "The Summer Youth Leadership Program helps them develop the skills they need to become future leaders in our community."

The Summer Youth Leadership Program gives young people age 15-18 the opportunity to serve the community by working alongside adult volunteers and public employees in local government agencies. Asset Ambassadors work 35 hours per week for five weeks at a salary of \$5.50 per hour and receive training on Fridays at the Rochester-Monroe County Youth Bureau. The program is funded through a Division of Criminal Justice Services Grant secured by Senator Nozzolio.

Senator Nozzolio noted that "the Summer Youth Leadership Program provides young citizens in Monroe County with the opportunity to gain valuable work experience and a first-hand knowledge of the day-to-day operations and responsibilities of local government." He added, "The program serves to inspire future leaders by helping young citizens strengthen the skills that will help them be successful. These individuals are to be commended for their leadership and hard work and for their willingness and desire to serve their communities."

The Positive Youth Development approach was embraced by County Executive Doyle in 1996 and has since grown from a Rochester-Monroe County Youth Bureau initiative to a network of schools and communities. Asset Ambassadors learn and develop new skills they can use to support Positive Youth Development initiatives in their home communities.

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For further information, contact County Communications at 428-2380 See us on the web www.monroecounty.gov